

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

Anselmo Alcantara Galisia,

Case No.

Plaintiff,

v.

Da Pai Dong, Inc. and
Hong Kong Food Court of Elmhurst, Corp.
and Jianqi Chen

Defendants.

COMPLAINT

**PLAINTIFF DEMANDS
TRIAL BY JURY**

Plaintiff, Anselmo Alcantara Galisia (“Plaintiff”), by and through their attorneys, Daniel I. Schlade, complain against Da Pai Dong, Inc. (“Defendant” or “Da Pai Dong”), Hong Kong Food Court of Elmhurst, Corp. (“Defendant” or “Hong Kong Food”) and Jianqi Chen (“Defendant” or “Chen”). Da Pai Dong, Hong Kong Food and Chen may collectively be referred to as “Defendants”. In support of this Complaint, Plaintiff states:

Introduction

1. This action seeks redress for Defendants’ willful violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq. (“FLSA”), as well as violations of the New York Labor Law, Section 190, *et. seq.* (“NYLL”)

Parties

2. Plaintiff is a resident of the Bronx, New York; and he was employed by Defendants.

3. Da Pai Dong is a business that is located, headquartered, and conducts business in Queens, NY.

4. Hong Kong Food is a business that is located, headquartered, and conducts business in Queens, NY.

5. Chen is the owner and manager Of Da Pai Dong and Hong Kong Food and they are in charge of its employees. On information and belief, Chen is a resident of Queens.

6. Defendants are “an enterprise engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce” under 29 USC § 203(s)(1)(A)(i) and (ii) because they have annual gross volume of sales made or business done of at least \$500,000; and because they are engaged in interstate commerce or in the production of goods for interstate commerce. Additionally, they have more than three employees.

Jurisdiction And Venue

7. The Court possesses subject matter jurisdiction over the FLSA claim(s) pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b) and 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question), and 28 U.S.C. §1337; and supplemental jurisdiction over any related state law claim(s) pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.

8. Venue is proper in the Eastern District of New York because all underlying facts and transactions occurred in or about Queens, New York.

Facts Common To All Claims

9. Da Pai Dong and Hong Kong Food are an “employer” as that term is defined in Section 203 of the FLSA, because it is a privately owned for-profit entity.

10. Chen is an “employer” as that term is defined in Section 203 of the FLSA, because: (1) they were Plaintiff’s head “boss” at Da Pai Dong and Hong Kong Food; (2) they had the power to hire and fire the employees, including Plaintiff; (3) they supervised and controlled Plaintiff’s work schedules and conditions of employment; (4) they determined the rate and method of payment for employees; and (5) they maintained employment records.

COUNT I
(As to Defendant Da Pai Dong)

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Failure to Pay Minimum and Overtime Wages In Violation of the FLSA)

11. Plaintiff reincorporates by reference Paragraphs 1 through 10, as if set forth in full herein for Paragraph 11.
12. Plaintiff began working at Da Pai Dong in or before the April 2018 until June 2022.
13. At all times, Plaintiff held the same position at Da Pai Dong, he was a dishwasher. Plaintiff was an “employee” of Defendants as that term is used in Section 203 of the FLSA because he was employed by Defendants to perform dishwashing duties, and they do not fall into any of the exceptions or exemptions for workers under the FLSA.
14. Although schedules are subject to change, Plaintiff’s general schedule with Defendants required Plaintiff to work on average 66-77 hours per week.
15. Plaintiff was paid their wages on a(n) biweekly basis.
16. Plaintiff’s wages were not based on the number of jobs performed or completed, nor was it based on the quality or efficiency of their performance.
17. Plaintiff’s rate of pay was \$120.00 per day, \$12.00 per hour when Plaintiff worked 66 hours per week, and \$10.90 per hour when Plaintiff worked 77 hours per week.
18. Throughout the course of Plaintiff’s employment with Defendants, Defendants regularly scheduled and directed Plaintiff to work in excess of forty (40) hours per week.
19. Defendants did not pay Plaintiff not less than one and a half (1.5) times the regular rate at which he was employed during the hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week.
20. On information and belief, Defendants have failed to keep proper time records tracking Plaintiffs’ time worked; and Defendants’ failure and refusal to pay Plaintiff overtime wages for

hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week was a willful violation of the FLSA. Defendant knew or should have known that Plaintiff was entitled to time-and-a-half wages for hours worked in excess of 40 per week, and thus its conduct was willful.

21. Plaintiff is entitled to recover unpaid minimum and overtime wages and liquidated damages for up to three (3) years prior to the filing of this lawsuit. On information and belief, this amount includes: (i) \$71,998.40 in unpaid minimum and overtime wages; (ii) liquidated damages of \$71,998.40; and (iii) Plaintiff's attorney's fees and costs, to be determined. A calculation of Plaintiff's damages is attached as Exhibit A.

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Failure to Pay Minimum and Overtime Wages In Violation of the NYLL)

22. Plaintiff incorporates by reference Paragraphs 1-21, as if set forth in full herein for this Paragraph 22.

23. This count arises from Defendants Da Pai Dong and Chen violation of the NYLL, by: failing to pay Plaintiff New York mandated minimum and overtime wages for all hours worked in excess of 40 hours in each individual work week in violation of the NYLL.

24. Defendant Da Pai Dong and Chen failure to pay Plaintiff the New York-mandated minimum and overtime wage rate for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours in an individual work week is a violation of the NYLL.

25. Pursuant to the NYLL, Plaintiff is entitled to recover unpaid minimum and overtime wages for six (6) years prior to the filing of this suit, which amount totals \$108,301.60.

26. In additional Defendants' violation of the NYLL was willful, and thus Plaintiff is entitled to recover liquidated damages pursuant to the NYLL totaling \$108,301.60. A calculation of Plaintiff's damages is attached as Exhibit A.

THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF
(Failure to Issue Accurate Age Notices In Violation of the NYLL)

27. Plaintiff incorporates by reference Paragraphs 1-26, as if set forth in full herein for this Paragraph 27.

28. NYLL §§ 195(1) and (2) require employers to issue accurate wage notices to employees at the time of their hiring or when any changes to the information required to appear on wage notices occurs.

29. During the six years preceding this Complaint, Plaintiff experienced material changes in their employment, including the rate of pay at which Plaintiff was compensated.

30. During the preceding six years, Defendants Da Pai Dong and Chen unlawfully failed to issue accurate wage notices to Plaintiff by failing to notify Plaintiff of their accurate rate of pay, including overtime pay.

31. Due to Defendants' Da Pai Dong and Chen NYLL violations, Plaintiff is entitled to \$50 per day for every day accurate wage notices were not provided, up to \$5,000 per person, plus interest and attorneys' fees and costs.

FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF
(Failure to Furnish Accurate Wage Statements/Paystubs)

32. Plaintiff incorporates by reference Paragraphs 1-31, as if set forth in full herein for this Paragraph 32.

33. NYLL § 195(3) requires employers to furnish employees with accurate wage statements, i.e., pay stubs, that include accurate, inter alia, rate or rates of pay and basis thereof, and hours worked.

34. During the preceding six years, Defendants Da Pai Dong and Chen unlawfully failed to issue accurate wage statements to Plaintiff, including failing to include overtime pay in any such wage statements.

35. Due to Defendants' Da Pai Dong and Chen NYLL violations, Plaintiffs and the NYLL Class Members are each entitled to \$250 per violation up to \$5,000 per person, plus interest and attorneys' fees and costs.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Anselmo Alcantara Galisia respectfully requests that the Court enter a judgment in its favor and against Defendants Da Pai Dong and Chen joint and severally, for:

- A. An award for Defendant's violations of the FLSA in the amount of unpaid minimum and overtime wages for all time worked by Plaintiff in excess of forty (40) hours in individual work weeks, totaling at least \$71,998.40.
- B. An award of liquidated damages for Defendant's willful violations of the FLSA in an amount equal to at least \$71,998.40.
- C. An award for Defendant's violations of the NYLL and/or its regulations, totaling at least \$108,301.60 plus such pre-judgment and post-judgment interest as may be allowed by law;
- D. An award of liquidated damages for Defendant's willful violations of the NYLL in an amount equal to at least \$108,301.60.
- E. An award of \$50 for each day that Defendants violated NYLL § 195(1) and/or (2), up to \$5,000.00
- F. An award of \$250 for each violation of of NYLL § 195(3) by Defendants, up to \$5,000.00

- G. A declaration that Defendants violated the FLSA;
- H. An award reasonable attorneys' fees and costs; and
- I. Any such additional or alternative relief as this Court deems just and proper.

COUNT II
(As to Defendant Hong Kong Food)

FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF
(Failure to Pay Minimum and Overtime Wages In Violation of the FLSA)

- 36. Plaintiff reincorporates by reference Paragraphs 1 through 10, as if set forth in full herein for Paragraph 36.
- 37. Plaintiff began working at Hong Kong Food in or before June 2022 until July 1, 2022.
- 38. At all times, Plaintiff held the same position at Hong Kong Food, he was a dishwasher. Plaintiff was an "employee" of Defendants as that term is used in Section 203 of the FLSA because he was employed by Defendants to perform dishwashing duties, and they do not fall into any of the exceptions or exemptions for workers under the FLSA.
- 39. Although schedules are subject to change, Plaintiff's general schedule with Defendants required Plaintiff to work on average 66-77 hours per week.
- 40. Plaintiff was paid their wages on a(n) biweekly basis.
- 41. Plaintiff's wages were not based on the number of jobs performed or completed, nor was it based on the quality or efficiency of their performance.
- 42. Plaintiff's rate of pay was \$120.00 per day, \$12.00 per hour when Plaintiff worked 66 hours per week, and \$10.90 per hour when Plaintiff worked 77 hours per week.
- 43. Throughout the course of Plaintiff's employment with Defendants, Defendants regularly scheduled and directed Plaintiff to work in excess of forty (40) hours per week.

44. Defendants did not pay Plaintiff not less than one and a half (1.5) times the regular rate at which he was employed during the hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week.

45. On information and belief, Defendants have failed to keep proper time records tracking Plaintiffs' time worked; and Defendants' failure and refusal to pay Plaintiff overtime wages for hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week was a willful violation of the FLSA. Defendant knew or should have known that Plaintiff was entitled to time-and-a-half wages for hours worked in excess of 40 per week, and thus its conduct was willful.

46. Plaintiff is entitled to recover unpaid overtime wages and liquidated damages for up to three (3) years prior to the filing of this lawsuit. On information and belief, this amount includes: (i) \$2,117.60 in unpaid minimum and overtime wages; (ii) liquidated damages of \$2,117.60; and (iii) Plaintiff's attorney's fees and costs, to be determined. A calculation of Plaintiff's damages is attached as Exhibit B.

SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Failure to Pay Minimum and Overtime Wages In Violation of the NYLL)

47. Plaintiff incorporates by reference Paragraphs 36-46, as if set forth in full herein for this Paragraph 47.

48. This count arises from Defendants' Hong Kong Food and Chen violation of the NYLL, by: failing to pay Plaintiff New York mandated minimum and overtime wages for all hours worked in excess of 40 hours in each individual work week in violation of the NYLL.

49. Defendant's failure to pay Plaintiff the New York-mandated minimum and overtime wage rate for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours in an individual work week is a violation of the NYLL.

50. Pursuant to the NYLL, Plaintiff is entitled to recover unpaid minimum and overtime wages for six (6) years prior to the filing of this suit, which amount totals \$2,117.60.

51. In addition Defendants' violation of the NYLL was willful, and thus Plaintiff is entitled to recover liquidated damages pursuant to the NYLL totaling \$2,117.60. A calculation of Plaintiff's damages is attached as Exhibit B.

SEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF
(Failure to Issue Accurate Age Notices In Violation of the NYLL)

52. Plaintiff incorporates by reference Paragraphs 36-51, as if set forth in full herein for this Paragraph 52.

53. NYLL §§ 195(1) and (2) require employers to issue accurate wage notices to employees at the time of their hiring or when any changes to the information required to appear on wage notices occurs.

54. During the six years preceding this Complaint, Plaintiff experienced material changes in their employment, including the rate of pay at which Plaintiff was compensated.

55. During the preceding six years, Defendants Hong Kong Food and Chen unlawfully failed to issue accurate wage notices to Plaintiff by failing to notify Plaintiff of their accurate rate of pay, including overtime pay.

56. Due to Defendants' NYLL violations, Plaintiff is entitled to \$50 per day for every day accurate wage notices were not provided, up to \$5,000 per person, plus interest and attorneys' fees and costs.

EIGHTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Failure to Furnish Accurate Wage Statements/Paystubs)

57. Plaintiff incorporates by reference Paragraphs 36-56 as if set forth in full herein for this Paragraph 57.

58. NYLL § 195(3) requires employers to furnish employees with accurate wage statements, i.e., pay stubs, that include accurate, inter alia, rate or rates of pay and basis thereof, and hours worked.

59. During the preceding six years, Defendants Hong Kong Food and Chen unlawfully failed to issue accurate wage statements to Plaintiff, including failing to include overtime pay in any such wage statements.

60. Due to Defendants' Hong Kong Food and Chen NYLL violations, Plaintiffs and the NYLL Class Members are each entitled to \$250 per violation up to \$5,000 per person, plus interest and attorneys' fees and costs.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Anselmo Alcantara Galisia respectfully requests that the Court enter a judgment in its favor and against Defendants Hong Kong Food and Chen joint and severally, for:

- A. An award for Defendant's violations of the FLSA in the amount of unpaid overtime wages for all time worked by Plaintiff in excess of forty (40) hours in individual work weeks, totaling at least \$2,117.60;
- B. An award of liquidated damages for Defendant's willful violations of the FLSA in an amount equal to at least \$2,117.60;
- C. An award for Defendant's violations of the NYLL and/or its regulations, totaling at least \$2,117.60 plus such pre-judgment and post-judgment interest as may be allowed by law;

D. An award of liquidated damages for Defendant's willful violations of the NYLL in an amount equal to at least \$2,117.60.

E. An award of \$50 for each day that Defendants violated NYLL § 195(1) and/or (2), up to \$5,000.00

F. An award of \$250 for each violation of NYLL § 195(3) by Defendants, up to \$5,000.00

G. A declaration that Defendants violated the FLSA;

H. An award reasonable attorneys' fees and costs; and

I. Any such additional or alternative relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Anselmo Alcantara Galisia

s/Daniel I. Schlade
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PLAINTIFF DEMANDS TRIAL BY JURY